<u>REMARKS</u>

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated April 21, 2006. Claims 50 to 61 are pending in the application, of which Claims 50, 52, 54, 56, 58 and 60 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 50 to 61 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Published Appln. No. 2004/0223177 (Takagi) in view of U.S. Published Appln. No. 2004/01844074 (Leiman). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

The present invention generally concerns the operation of an information processing apparatus coupled to a printer. According to one feature of the invention, the information processing apparatus acquires from the printer an attribute value of one of the plurality of attributes included in the attribute list acquired by a first acquiring unit, wherein the plurality of attributes includes a start mode attribute, and wherein the attribute value of the start mode attribute includes a setting item for designation of a print job start time.

Turning to specific claim language, amended independent Claim 50 is directed to an information processing apparatus capable of communicating with a printer. The apparatus includes a first acquiring unit adapted to acquire from the printer an attribute list including a plurality of attributes supported by the printer; a determination unit adapted to determine for each of the plurality of attributes included in the attribute list acquired by the first acquiring unit whether the attribute corresponds to software that operates on the information processing apparatus; a second acquiring unit adapted to acquire from the printer an attribute value of one of the plurality of attributes determined by the

determination unit to correspond to the software; a control unit adapted to control a setting screen of the software to reflect the attribute value acquired by the second acquiring unit; and a job output unit adapted to generate a print job based on a setting entered via the setting screen that has reflected the attribute value and output the generated print job to the printer. The plurality of attributes includes a start mode attribute and the attribute value of the start mode attribute includes a setting item for designation of a print job start time.

Amended independent Claim 52 is directed to a printer capable of communicating with an information processing apparatus. The printer includes a first output unit adapted to output an attribute list including a plurality of attributes supported by the printer to the information processing apparatus, so as to allow the information processing apparatus to determine for each of the plurality of attributes included in the attribute list whether the attribute corresponds to software that operates on the information processing apparatus and provide a request for an attribute value of one of the plurality of attributes determined to correspond to the software; a second output unit adapted to output the attribute value to the information processing apparatus in response to the request provided by the information processing apparatus, so as to allow the information processing apparatus to control a setting screen of the software to reflect the attribute value, generate a print job based on a setting entered via the setting screen that has reflected the attribute value and output the generated print job to said printer; and a reception unit adapted to receive the print job from the information processing apparatus. The plurality of attributes includes a start mode attribute and the attribute value of the start mode attribute includes a setting item for designation of a print job start time.

The applied art is not seen to disclose or suggest the features of the invention of the subject application. In particular, Takagi and Leiman are not seen to disclose or suggest at least the feature that the plurality of attributes includes a start mode attribute, wherein the attribute value of the start mode attribute includes a setting item for designation of a print job start time.

As understood by the Applicants, Takagi discloses displaying in a client computer a screen that shows the function modes of a printer or "information in accordance with the selected mode." See Takagi, page 4, paragraph 80.

Although Takagi may be seen to show the function modes of a printer, nothing in Takagi is seen to disclose or suggest at least the features of a determination unit adapted to determine for each of the plurality of attributes included in the attribute list acquired by a first acquiring unit whether the attribute corresponds to software that operates on the information processing apparatus; a second acquiring unit adapted to acquire from the printer an attribute value of one of the plurality of attributes determined by the determination unit to correspond to the software; and a control unit adapted to control a setting screen of the software to reflect the attribute value acquired by the second acquiring unit.

Further, and as acknowledged at page 2 of the Office Action, Takagi does not disclose or suggest that the plurality of attributes includes a start mode attribute and that the attribute value of the start mode attribute includes a print job start time. However, the Office Action alleges that Leiman discloses this feature.

As understood by the Applicants, Leiman is seen to disclose a Report Ticket window that displays information about a selected report, wherein one or more reports are

contained in a print job. See Leiman, page 5, paragraph 50. "Selecting the view report ticket option displays a Report Ticket window 198," wherein the window 198 displays attributes of the selected report, such as "print date," "print start time," and "print end time." See Leiman, page 5, paragraph 50 and Fig. 25. In particular, the "print start time" is seen to be the time at which a print job had started rather than a time to start the print job, as disclosed in the present application.

Therefore, although Leiman may be seen to disclose displaying the time at which a print job had started, nothing in Leiman is seen to suggest or disclose providing a setting item for designation of a print job start time. Rather, Leiman is merely seen to disclose that "an operator or user connected to a source computer may add notes to a report in the notes dialog box 200." See Leiman, page 5, paragraph 50 and Fig. 25.

As such, even if Takagi and Leiman are combined in the manner proposed in the Office Action (assuming for argument's sake that such combination would be permissible), the result would not disclose or suggest at least the feature that the plurality of attributes includes a start mode attribute, wherein the attribute value of the start mode attribute includes a setting item for designation of a print job start time. Further, neither Takagi nor Leiman, alone or in combination, discloses or suggests at least the features of a determination unit adapted to determine for each of the plurality of attributes included in the attribute list acquired by a first acquiring unit whether the attribute corresponds to software that operates on the information processing apparatus; a second acquiring unit adapted to acquire from the printer an attribute value of one of the plurality of attributes determined by the determination unit to correspond to the software; and a control unit

adapted to control a setting screen of the software to reflect the attribute value acquired by the second acquiring unit

Accordingly, based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, independent Claims 50 and 52 as amended is believed to be allowable over the applied references.

Claims 54 and 56 recite a method corresponding to the information processing apparatus of Claim 50 and the printer of Claim 52, respectively. Claims 58 and 60 recite a program corresponding to the method of Claims 54 and 56, respectively.

The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA
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Respectfully submitted,

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